

QA-382

Willis Redden Bank Barn
Ruthsburg vicinity
Private

circa 1880's

The bank barn on the Willis Redden Farm is one of two recorded examples in Queen Anne's County, and is a barn type rarely found this far south on the Eastern Shore. The other recorded example, the Florence Mason Bank Barn (QA-304) is located within two miles of the Redden Farm, and initial documentary research shows that both farms were owned by the Beck family of Northampton County, Pennsylvania during the latter part of the 19th century. It would appear that both barns were constructed by the Beck family, explaining the appearance of Pennsylvania barns in this area. The hewn framing and machine nails of the Redden barn suggest it is earlier than the Mason barn, and was probably built circa 1880.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Willis Redden Farm, Willis Redden Bank Barn

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Mason Branch Road

CITY, TOWN

Ruthsburg

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

William W. Redden

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Queen Anne

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21657

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: TSP 63

Folio #: 499

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

44-382

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Willis Redden farm is located on the north side of Mason Branch Road between Mason Branch and German Branch, approximately two miles east of Ruthsburg. The farm buildings are clustered around a late 19th century farmhouse surrounded by open agricultural land.

The most significant building on the Redden farm is a bank barn on the southern edge of the farmyard. This is an unusual barn type in this region, and is believed to date to the 1870's or 1880's.

The barn is constructed on a relatively flat site rather than the more traditional sloping or "bank" site favored in Pennsylvania. The overhanging forebay faces south toward the road, while a dirt ramp on the rear or north facade allows ready access to the upper loft area. The building rests on a common bond brick foundation and is covered with vertical board siding; the roof is tin. The gable foundation walls are carried out to the outer end of the forebay, which cantilevers out 4 1/2 feet across the entire south facade.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The bank barn on the Willis Redden Farm is one of two recorded examples in Queen Anne's County, and is a barn type rarely found this far south on the Eastern Shore. The other recorded example, the Florence Mason Bank Barn (QA-304) is located within two miles of the Redden Farm, and initial documentary research shows that both farms were owned by the Beck family of Northampton County, Pennsylvania during the latter part of the 19th century. It would appear that both barns were constructed by the Beck family, explaining the appearance of Pennsylvania barns in this area. The hewn framing and machine nails of the Redden barn suggest it is earlier than the Mason barn, and was probably built circa 1880.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

4/22/80

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

Field Note Book QA-XV, Recorded February 20, 1980.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

There are five ground level stable doors across the protected forebay, and a relatively small loft door in the center of the main floor of the loft. Directly below this door is a second, smaller batten door hung on wrought strap hinges. The stable doors are constructed of plain vertical boards nailed to beaded battens and hung on wrought strap hinges. They are "Dutch" or double stable doors, allowing the top half of the door to be opened separately. The forebay wall is constructed of horizontal boards up to chest level, with vertical slats above that point.

The only opening in the east gable is a single door on the main loft floor level, mounted on machine strap hinges. Two small window openings in the foundation wall are the only openings in the west gable. Large double sliding doors on the north facade at loft floor level allow wagons to be pulled up the earth ramp and onto the central threshing floor. A smaller set of double doors to the east of the ramp on the lower ground level open into a large stable or animal pen.

The west end of the ground level was used as a small milking parlor, with a concrete floor and a row

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

of metal stanchions bisecting the room parallel to the west gable. A steep ladder-stair leads from this area up to the main floor level. To the east of the milking parlor is a large stable or browsing area, and beyond that are several more stables.

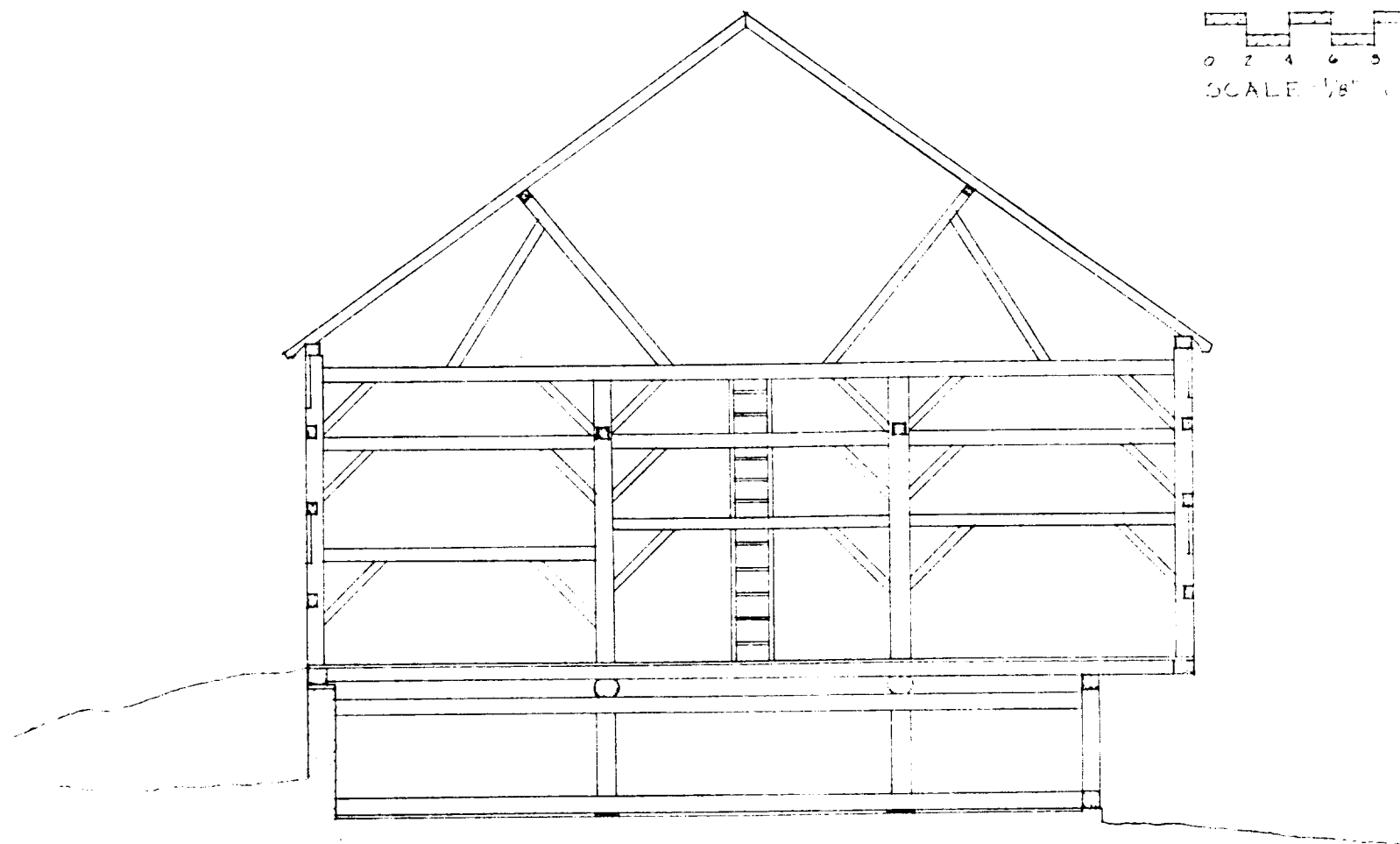
The main floor and loft are divided into three principal bays by the four major framing bents. The double doors on the north facade open into a central threshing floor. This is enclosed on each side by horizontal board partitions approximately 6 to 7 feet high. The west bay is used for hay storage, the east bay is floored in to form a separate granary with more hay storage above.

The framing system is typical of bank barns, with heavy longitudinal plates and summers supporting massive joists that cantilever out to form the forebay. Four principal framing bents are joined by longitudinal tie beams, wall plates, and purlins. The roof is of common rafter construction, supported by the wall plates and single purlins and mitred and butted at the ridge. The purlins are supported by queen post braces mortised into the top tie beam. The framing timbers are all hewn, while the down braces are

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

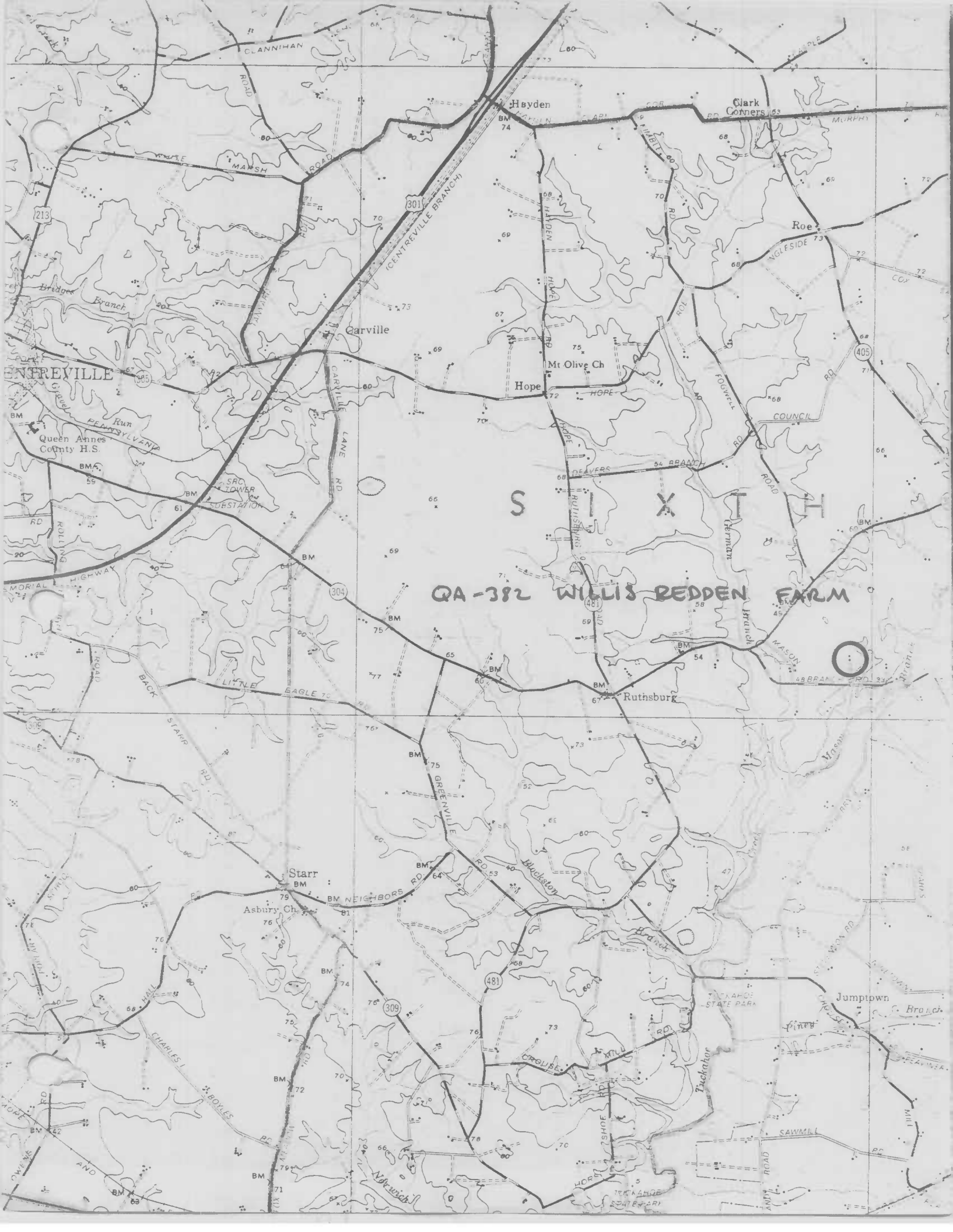
circular sawn. All joints are pegged mortise-and-tenon, and nails are machine made. The hewn material and machine nails suggest a date of construction before circa 1885-1890, while the circular sawn braces and mitred ridge connection are rarely found before the Civil War, suggesting a probable date of circa 1865-1890.



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-382 WILLIS REDDEN BANK BARN
KUTHSBURG, MARYLAND

FEB. 20, 1980





QA-382 Willis Redden Bank Barn
 Ruthsburg vicinity
 Orlando Ridout V 1980
 View from Northeast

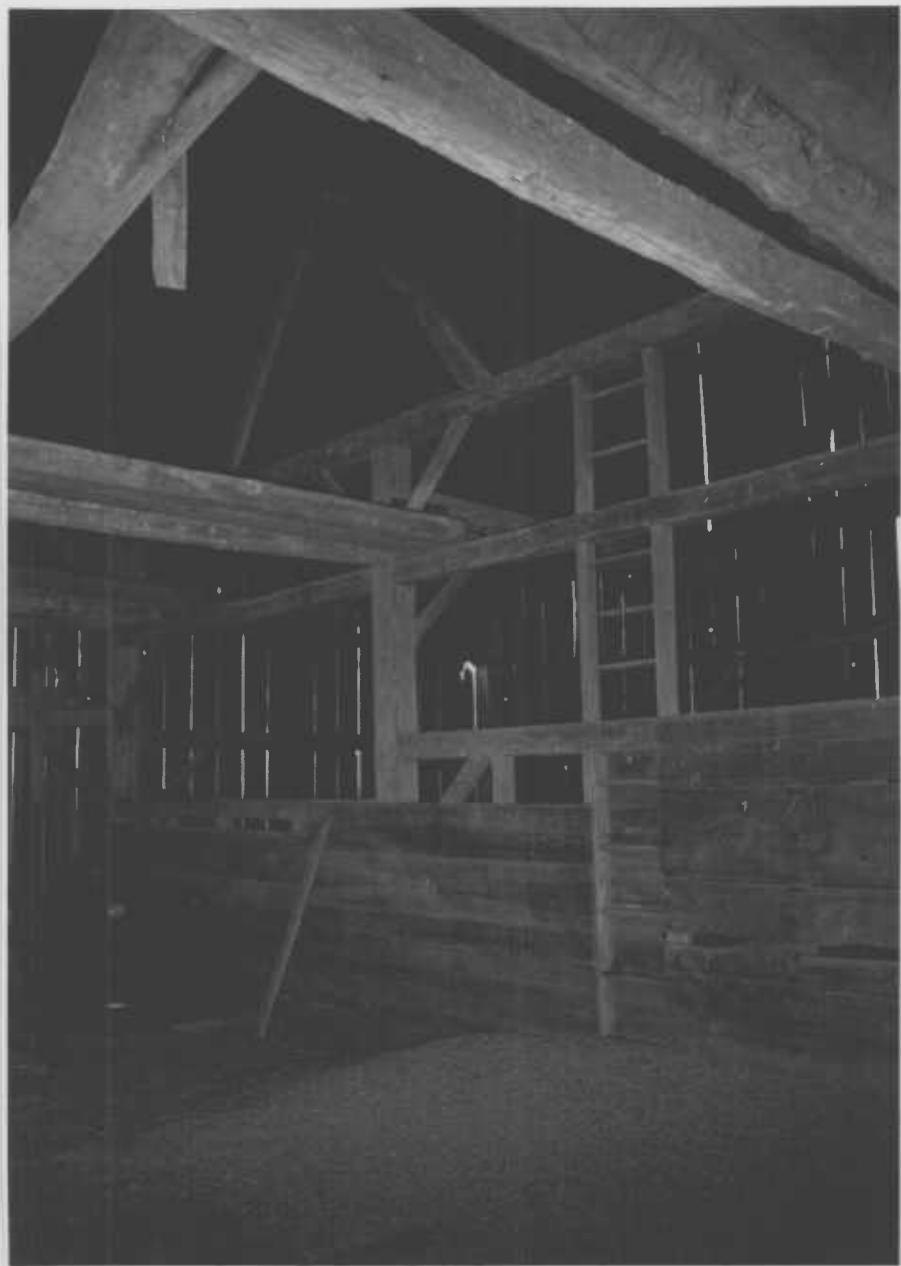


QA-382

Willis Redden Bank Barn
Ruthsburg vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1980
View from Southwest



QA-382 Willis Redden Bank Barn
Ruthsburg vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1980
Overshot forebay



QA-382

Willis Redden Bank Barn
Ruthsburg vicinity
Orlando Ridout V 1980
Interior view